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United Church Board for World Ministries Winter 1994, Vol. XXIII, No. 3

Hirano elected to head UCBWM

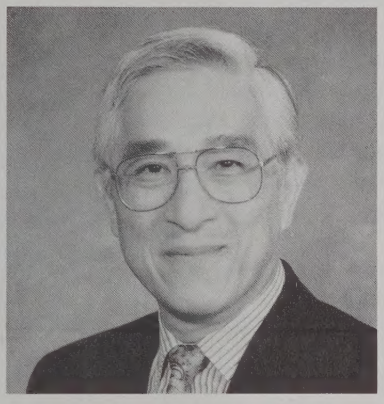
The Rev. Dr. David Y. Hirano, 57, son of a Japanese minister converted through Congregational missionaries in Hawaii and himself "an object of mission," was chosen Executive Vice President of the UC Board for World Ministries at the Board's Annual Meeting Nov. 6.

Hirano is the first Asian American to head a UCC instrumentality. He was most recently the Connecticut Conference Minister, having served in that position since 1990. He began his new duties Feb. 1, 1994. Hirano succeeds the Rev. Dr. Scott Libbey who had headed the UCC overseas mission arm since 1985.

Describing the North American church as "disestablished," Hirano said the UCBWM can play a key role in world mission by learning from our partners, "who have lived all their lives as a small but influential minority in lands populated by peoples of other religions." He also said churches "will need to learn to live as equals."

"We can learn from our partners who have lived all their lives as a small but influential minority in lands populated by peoples of other religions."

Corporate Members at the Indianapolis meeting discussed plans to shift UCBWM work and financial resources into a Common Global Ministries Board with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by 1996 (the two denominations have been jointly engaged in mission for more than 20 years). Hirano described it as "living into a partnership" with the Disciples,



The Rev. Dr. David Y. Hirano

and as "an exciting venture" which "bodes well for us." When the partnership with the Disciples encounters the current UCC restructuring, he added, "there will be some challenges we will need to face."

Citing a shift in world focus from the Atlantic to the Pacific Rim—which he said is "far more diverse" than the Atlantic—Hirano also challenged members to be prepared to live in a more multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-religious world.

Hirano said his father was converted to Christianity through Congregational missionaries who ministered among Japanese working on sugar cane plantations in Hawaii. His father became an evangelist working with Japanese immigrants in California and Hawaii. He then went to Japan as a missionary to establish a church in Hamamatsu, where David—who calls himself "a product of the work of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions"—was born.

He says his experiences as a product and object of mission, plus serving as

(continued on page 12)

Changes made to single offices

Following actions taken at the November UCBWM Board of Directors meeting, the Division of Overseas Ministry (DOM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the UCBWM now have single offices related to seven regional mission areas of the world.

Kenneth R. Ziebell was appointed to head the Europe office, and Ching-fen Hsiao is the new East Asia-Pacific office executive. Located in New York City, Hsiao and Ziebell have held the same positions for the UCBWM.

Those positions for the DOM were formerly held by DOM President William Nottingham (Europe) and Robert S. Bates (East Asia-Pacific), who both retired Dec. 31.

Ziebell has relinquished his position as Associate in the UCBWM Global Education and Advocacy Office (GE&A). Alicia Nebot has assumed the position of full-time Associate in the GE&A Office. She is based in New York.

L. Luz Bacerra, Indianapolis, was named East Asia/Pacific Associate in addition to her position as executive for the DOM's Southeast Asia office. She served in a similar capacity jointly with the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., an arrangement which ended Dec. 31.

The action was one more step toward a common global mission program. The two denominations have worked together in overseas mission for 20 years.

For more on actions taken at the UCBWM Annual Meeting in November, see pg. 8.

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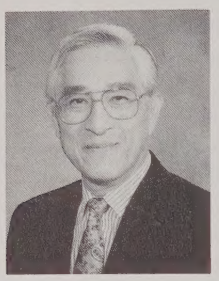
Message from the EVP



In between times

by David Hirano

I write this message on the day before Thanksgiving. Like the pilgrims who began a journey to a new place, we are beginning a journey to a new place. I was called to be the Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for World Ministries on November 6, and will begin this new ministry on February 1, 1994.

My journey in ordained ministry has been full of surprises. If I could have scripted my life, it would have been different. When I committed myself to ordained ministry, I said to God, "I'll go where you want me to go, I'll do what you want me to do, I'll be what you want me to be." So we've criss-crossed the North American continent and gone where we haven't wanted to go.

Sometimes I've felt that I was inadequate for the job, but I have been reminded that God does not call us because we are adequate. God calls us to serve faithfully, and God provides ways for us in which to do ministry.

These are "in between" times for Sandra and me. We are getting ready to move from Windsor, Connecticut, to Cleveland, Ohio. We are poring over descriptions of real estate in Cleveland. We have put our house on the market. We are contacting movers. I am trying to tie up loose ends in the Connecticut Conference. These in between times are challenging and exciting, but also sad.

The world is in between times of peace and war. The gap in between the poor and non-poor increases. The creation waits "in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay . . ." (Romans 8:21).

The United Church of Christ is called to minister in these in between times. The United Church Board for World Ministries, as an instrumentality of the United Church of Christ, joins in God's mission throughout the world in these in between times. Congregations in the United Church of Christ are called upon to join in God's mission. The UCBWM is to help equip congregations to join in God's global mission. Our ministry is God's ministry.

Structurally, the United Church Board for World Ministries is also in between. The UCBWM and the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have been working on a Common Global Ministries Board. At the same time, the General Synod Committee on Structure has been working on a restructuring of the United Church of Christ in its national settings. How the two will intersect and how we will work through those changes will present challenges. While these may be difficult, they are not overwhelming.

No matter how one sees the world, one can only conclude that change is always present. Adapting to change is one way to face the future. Another way is to help create the future.

When one allows oneself to be open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, change is exciting and challenging. When we allow ourselves to be open to the Holy Spirit, we help to create the future. When we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit, we enter God's future.

The promise of Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. I am confident that as the United Church Board for World Ministries opens itself to the Holy Spirit, God will lead.

Pray for us as we begin our new ministry—in these in between times.

"Called as partners in Christ's service,
called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment
fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing,
side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring
to fulfill God's chosen end."

—Jane Parker Huber

Musubi and ume

"When I think about partnerships, I think of the word musubi. Musubi is a rice ball. You take hot rice and you wet your hands and put some salt on it, and you mold it into kind of like a triangle thing. Some people think it's to throw, but it's to eat. We always had musubi on picnics, and when I was working at the cannery in Honolulu we took musubi for lunch.

"Musubi is a symbol for something like solidarity or group or unity. I know that we're working at it with our ecumenical partners and with our overseas partners, but I live for the day when all of us will be knit together like musubi.

"Sometimes with the musubi I put in some ume, which is pickled plum, and when you put the pickled plum in the midst of the musubi it's kind of like a preservative, so that the musubi lasts a long time. I think that is a wonderful symbol for what partnerships can be with Jesus Christ in the middle."

—Address by the Rev. Dr. David Y. Hirano
to the UCBWM's Board of Directors
UCBWM Annual Meeting, November 1993

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IN-KY Conference reaches out to Sri Lankans

How can local church folks make a difference in the lives of our UCC partners around the world?

If your church has thought of getting involved in peace and justice efforts in southern Asia but you don't know how to proceed, talking to folks in the Indiana-Kentucky (IN-KY) Conference about their programs of partnership and advocacy with Sri Lanka might be a good place to start.

People from the IN-KY Conference are part of a coalition of churches (such as United Methodist) and non-ecclesiastical groups (such as Asia Watch and Amnesty International) working with the National Council of Churches of Christ/USA to develop an advocacy program through local legislators and the U.S. State Department. Officially called the North American Forum on Sri Lanka, the coalition has peace advocacy, civil and political rights and development as its major areas of concern.

The Conference effort is two-pronged. One part involves sponsorship of Sri Lankan children through the UCBWM's Child Sponsorship Program and help with building a youth hostel. (Approximately 128 Sri Lankan children are currently being sponsored through the UCBWM Child Sponsorship Program.)

The advocacy component promotes dialogue such as public forums. Indiana 9th District Congressman Lee Hamilton, at a Forum held in October in New Albany, IN, spoke about regional conflicts and their effect on world peace and U.S. foreign policy. Also participating was Sonya Chung, Associate, Network Development with the UC Office for Church in Society, who spoke about how local congregations can network and serve as advocates for justice and peace.

" . . . the country in the world with the most direct personal suffering due to armed violence."

The Forum's advocacy strategies for the island nation, now in its tenth year of civil war, have included face-to-face meetings with a Congressional representative, an October public forum, and a January trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with U.N. Human Rights Commission representatives. Advocates have also been in contact with folks at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, who are taking an active interest.

According to a recent report from the UCBWM Southern Asia Office, Sri Lanka (Ceylon prior to 1972) is currently "the country in the world with the most direct personal suffering due to armed violence. Add to that the indirectly caused suffering from an economy in shambles, social intercourse in jeopardy and education seriously disrupted and curtailed."

Since Sri Lanka's independence from Great Britain in 1948 there has been tension between the Buddhist Sinhalese majority and the Hindu Tamil minority over issues of language and power. Riots in 1983 took the lives of thousands of Tamils, leading eventually to the creation of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Many congregations of the Jaffna Diocese are in the north, which has been under Tiger control since 1990.

The Rev. Paul Jahn, pastor of St. Peter and Trinity UCC's in Lamar, IN, said the coalition welcomes anyone interested in education and advocacy work for Sri Lanka. Coalition members are also open to helping put together a project around a different topic, such as international peace.

A PARSONAGE OF the Church of South India, Jaffna Diocese, lies in ruins in Mankulam. The church's daycare and training centers, along with the church itself, were destroyed in a battle between the Sri Lankan army and the Tamil Tigers. The pastor, his family and assistant live in what used to be a garage for the tractor. What is left of the congregation worships in a mud-thatch building which now doubles as a daycare center.

"We've discovered that regional conflicts like the one going on in Sri Lanka are the new threats to world peace. Our country's foreign policy makers are confronted with a radically changed world with the end of the cold war, and are asking their constituents for patience while they wrestle with problems unforeseen or unimagined just five years ago. This is a time when the church needs to throw itself into the dialogue about issues of global peace and justice," Jahn said. "We need to get involved early, as new policies are being formed."

The IN-KY Conference's relationship with the Jaffna Diocese became a formal partnership in 1992. The UCC has had a continuous missionary presence in Sri Lanka since 1816. At its 1992 Annual Meeting, the UCBWM passed a resolution calling on churches and the international community to work for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Today the Jaffna Peninsula is under continual blockade and is intermittently bombed by Sri Lankan government forces. In addition to tens of thousands of deaths, it is estimated that the country has close to one million internal refugees. With no end in sight the war is destroying many parts of the north, displacing large numbers of people and crippling economic progress and development. Neither the government nor the Tamil Tigers show serious interest in negotiations, and both continue attacks which have resulted mainly in civilian casualties.

Jahn arrived in Sri Lanka last May just days after the assassination of the president to gather information about how the war is affecting the people. When he asked Sri Lankans

(continued on page 4)

Sri Lanka *(continued from page 3)*

where the focus of the international community ought to be, Jahn said there were four major concerns:

- To stop the attacks on civilians on the Jaffna Lagoon;
- To pressure both parties to reopen the ferry at Pooneryn;
- To open negotiations around restricted items, lift restrictions on medicine and fuel, building materials, paper and school books;
- And to try to bring an end to the aerial bombing.

Jahn said interest in the island nation, which lies off the southeast tip of India, has risen among key legislators recently. Because of interest by constituents in the IN-KY Conference, Jahn said Hamilton sent an aide to Sri Lanka who talked to the people and reported directly back to Hamilton.

". . .church folk helped brief Hamilton for his meeting with Sri Lanka's prime minister. . ."

Additionally, church folk helped brief Hamilton for his meeting with Sri Lanka's prime minister last fall, Jahn said. "So we feel we've been able to accomplish some things, and bring more interest to the situation." A lot of ground work needs to be done before the next presidential election in about a year, Jahn said. "We don't think there will be real substantial efforts toward peace until after that."

He said Christians in the IN-KY Conference became interested back in 1986-87. "We had a missionary-in-residence here and when they went back to Sri Lanka we were going to put together a program with Heifer Project as a thank you. But fighting started and Heifer couldn't go in, so the Conference decided to put together some relief efforts instead." Jahn

"This is a time when the church needs to throw itself into the dialogue about issues of global justice and peace."

also spent a fact-finding week in Sri Lanka in 1988. Upon his return, IN-KY Conference churches raised some $80,000 for refugee housing and to replace material destroyed in a hospital in the Jaffna Peninsula. In 1990, the Rev. Ralph Quellhorst (then IN-KY Conference Minister, now Ohio Conference Minister) made a trip to Sri Lanka representing the UCBWM at the Jaffna Diocese's 175th anniversary. Quellhorst continued to lay groundwork for the relationship, and he brought back news of the worsening conditions to raise awareness about the country's plight. Incidentally, Quellhorst was a passenger on the last ferry to cross the Jaffna Lagoon. Now the Conference anticipates sending others to survey the area.

(Note: The UCC currently has two missionaries in Sri Lanka. Dr. Robert Porter has been serving since 1981. He currently teaches at Jaffna College and Uduvil Girls' College, Vaddukodai. Ben Bavinck, based in Colombo, does relief and rehabilitation work. Porter will be in the U.S. on home assignment from September 1994 through January 1995.)

Crossing the lagoon . . .

(The Rev. Paul Jahn, pastor of St. Peter and Trinity UCC's in Lamar, IN, arrived in Sri Lanka last May—just days after the assassination of that country's president—to gather information on the effect of the war on the people. He spent about two weeks in the Northern Province and was able to travel across the Jaffna Lagoon to the Jaffna Peninsula. The lagoon is the only access to the peninsula, but the government has declared it off limits and regularly attacks boats found there. Jahn is one of the few outsiders to make this crossing. An excerpt from his trip report follows.)

At about 7 p.m. a church worker and I met a bus in the center of Kilinochchi which took us on an hour ride along causeways to an LTTE (Tiger) base northwest of town in the sandy marshes south of the lagoon. When we got off the bus, it was a pitch black moonless night. A handful of kerosene lamps lit the area where thousands of people waited in lines to pay 150 rupees (about $1.50) for the boat service. Being a white foreigner and a guest of the Jaffna Diocese, we were able to move to the head of the line.

Though we had a pass from the Tigers to cross on one of their boats, we decided to cross on the slower civilian boats. We paid our fare and climbed aboard a trailer which was pulled by tractor through the dunes—one of several secret locations used for these crossings. Again there were thousands of people waiting. It was estimated that there were 7,000 trying to cross that night. I asked the church worker who was with me, "What happens to the people that don't get a boat tonight? Do they just wait on the beach till tomorrow night?" "No, they have to go back to Kilinochchi. At dawn, if there is anyone left on the beach the army helicopters will come and strafe it with machine guns."

On the beach, which was lit by just one kerosene lantern, were 20 or so pallets and stretchers with the sick waiting to get across to Jaffna. The main hospital for the Northern Province remains the Jaffna Hospital.

The boats arrived from the peninsula at about 10:30. The sick were the first loaded. Most of the boats had no engine. They had to be pushed about a mile through shallow channels to deeper water. Then five boats without engines were tied to one with an outboard motor, and we slowly wove a serpentine path the 12 miles to the peninsula.

We could see search lights from the military bases at Elephant Pass and Pooneryn on our right and left looking for boats. We could see and hear shelling, but in the fog we had no idea what was going on. The next day we learned a navy gun boat had gotten around the armed Tiger boats that are supposed to guard the much slower civilian boats. The gun boat attacked the unarmed civilian boats behind us, killing four people. The other boats behind us turned back and they shut the operation down for the rest of the night. It took us three and a half hours to make the crossing.

How We See It From Here

***Linda Petrucelli** is the newly elected Secretary for the recently formed UCBWM Office for the Global Sharing of Resources (One Great Hour of Sharing). The following remarks are taken from her OGHS address at the UCBWM Annual Meeting.*

One of the guidelines (of the GSR Office) says that women must be included in the mechanisms of resource sharing. I learned this firsthand from my experiences at the Fishermen's Service Center (FSC, located in Taiwan, where she and husband Gary Hoff served as missionaries for nine years) and I use the word "fisher-man" very guardedly. I joined the FSC the year of its founding and I recall how our entire staff worked very hard conducting small seminars for fishermen on how not to be cheated by the fishing companies.

" . . . when women were part of the training, they went back to their homes and communities and got the word out."

We did an evaluation . . . and discovered that our training was not much of a success. We received only a few phone calls and almost no referrals. And then we decided to expand our focus and see the fishworker in a wider context, so we concentrated on training his family. And what we discovered was that when we trained the mothers and wives and sisters of these aboriginal fishworkers, the learning got spread around. Whole villages began to call on us whenever they had a problem. When women were part of the training, they went back to their homes and communities and got the word out. Justice through the activities of women.

. . . I was honored to meet Elaine Hesse-Steel last week. She is the General Secretary of the World YWCA, which is one of our partners. She shared two gifts with me and now I share them with you. "Trust is important," she said, "especially between partners. The way Lloyd Van Vactor shared OGHS gifts with us was with the utmost trust and the utmost interest and care." It has become clear to me, as new as I am, that when we celebrate the ministries enabled by OGHS what we are really doing is lifting up our *partners'* role in a mission we share. They are on the firing line, they are making sacrifices that literally can cost them their lives.

And the second gift Elaine shared with me was to quote from this poem by Lila Watson, an aboriginal woman from Australia: *"If you've come to help me you're wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then we can work together" . . .*

I've studied our Guiding Principles, our papers on partnership—and for me, the goals and spirit of OGHS are woven throughout each page—challenging us to move from "helping hands" to "a show of hands" solidarity with all of God's people.

***Pastoral theologian Robert C. Worley**, Director of the McCormick Center for the Study of Church Organizational Behavior, Chicago, spoke at a recent CODEL (Coordination in Development) meeting about the 24-year-old ecumenical development aid agency and UCBWM partner.*

Dr. Worley began his remarks with a quote from the play *Dancing at Lughnasa* in which a leading character stands before a broken mirror and says, "When are we going to get a decent mirror to see ourselves in?" A good mirror, Worley suggests, helps Christians see "not only ourselves, but also our context, our surroundings, our social world." Most mirrors in use, he feels, do not show the world as it exists. Instead, "Cultural Christianity has displaced vision for church and world. In Worley's view, "Denominations . . . have become ritualistic rather than innovative, defensive rather than offensive, inward-focused rather than focused on God's good for the world."

"When are we going to get a decent mirror to see ourselves in?"

He described CODEL as a mirror into which denominations might look to see an alternative expression of Christian faith beyond their own increasing inward and individualist focus.

***Linda Noonan** serves as a chaplain at Inanda Seminary, Durban, South Africa. In a recent letter she talks about the effect of Chris Hani's death (at the hands of a white assassin) on the area and her students.*

One of the most tragic results of Hani's death is that the country seems to have plunged back into a deep colour divide. The reactionary right wing, similar to the Ku Klux Klan, is on the rise and arming themselves. Thanks to the history of apartheid and its effect on education, so many youth are now uneducated, frustrated and unemployed. Many want to reinstate the armed struggle, feeling that their political elders and leaders have become moderate bureaucrats bogged down in the system and have forsaken the struggle. The majority of schools are experiencing extended "chalk-downs," or school boycotts. Some students have already been killed by police. It's not unusual to hear people say softly and ominously, remembering the devastating Soweto massacre, "1976, all over again."

The girls here (at Inanda) have been wonderful. They keep me laughing, thinking, struggling and praying like I never have before! Recently, I asked my religious education classes to write down their questions or concerns so we could discuss them together. Here are a few examples:

"If God is good, why is there so much violence? What colour is God? Is it true that the world will end in the year 2000? Is Satan male or female? What should a person do if she has been abused? If Mary was Jesus' mother and God was Jesus' father, then who was Joseph? What was Jesus' last name? What can you do so that people will love you? Why do people kill each other?"

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Issue Perspective: Child Prostitution in Asia —

I am seventeen years of age. This is my story. My life is so troubled. I go from one place to another . . . and I am abused from one place to another. My mother dislikes me . . . she brought me to a juvenile home to be disciplined but when we got there she told the social workers that she was giving me away because she could not feed her children anymore. In no time at all I escaped from that place. I went to my aunt who sent me to work as a housemaid in her friend's place. I had my first sexual experience there. The brother-in-law of my master raped me. When I told my aunt what had happened, she said it was probably a figment of my imagination. I left my master and went on my own. I found myself dancing at a club at the age of 11. I had a better life as a dancer but the owner abused me sexually. Again I left. I hopped from one club to another in the red-light district of Manila. I was in one of the clubs when I experienced a police raid. We were brought to the city jail in our bikinis. One of the policemen had sex with me. This I did to bail myself out. For many years now, my life has been a series of hits and misses. I have had different kinds of customers, foreigners and Filipinos. I tried suicide but it didn't work so I turned to drugs. I don't know about tomorrow. I want to die before my next birthday.'' — Poppy, the Philippines (The Child and the Tourist, *Ron O'Grady, pp. 53-54.)*

Poppy's story is not uncommon in Asia. According to recent estimates, there are over 840,000 child prostitutes in Asia under the age of 17. Their stories share similarities: broken promises, unimaginable exploitation and shattered lives at a tragically early age. It is said on the streets of Asia that a child prostitute is a young adult at 10, an old person at 20 and dead at 30.

AIDS spreading

A variety of factors have contributed to the recent explosion of child prostitution in Asia, beginning with AIDS. Some adults believe that the younger the child, the less likely the risk of HIV infection. Fear of this fatal virus is an incentive for the exploitation of younger and younger children. Actually, children contract HIV more easily than adults because their bodies are more vulnerable to physical damage during sexual activity. Thus one legacy of child prostitution is a dramatic rise in the spread of AIDS throughout Asia.

The promise of money

Ahgoo is 17 and lovely. But she says no one in her remote mountain village near the Burmese border will marry her because she used to be a prostitute in Bangkok. She is penniless. Heartbroken. Desperate. She was lured from her home when she was 13 with the vague promise of easy money to lift her Akha hill tribe family out of poverty. But in the four years she spent in a Bangkok brothel she never got so much as a single coin beyond the 10,000 baht ($550) given to her parents. What Ahgoo does not yet know is that she is also HIV positive. She is not alone. Hundreds of hill tribe girls are being fooled into parting with their lives for the promise of small amounts of money they often never see. Aghoo was a naive 13-year-old who found herself condemned to a life of virtual slavery ''servicing'' often 10 and sometimes as many as 20 men during a 10-hour day, seven days a week. About the time the country was reveling in perhaps the highest economic growth rate in the world, Ahgoo's life was sacrificed . . . for the equivalent of nine baht (50 cents) a week and two barely edible meals a day. (The Australian, *October 26, 1992)*

Linked to tourism

The growth of child prostitution can be partially linked to the development of mass tourism. For many nations struggling to grow economically, tourism has become a major growth industry. Consequently, despite their own laws, some Asian governments have been reluctant to shut down the industry—fearing tourists might be less likely to visit.

Child prostitution is also the result of the ruthless exploitation of poverty found especially in rural areas of many Asian nations. Sex industry ''recruiters'' make regular pilgrimages to places such as Aghoo's small Thai village to lure young people (male and female) away from their homes with promises of more money and a better life.

"She will forget"

Dr. Duong Quynh Hoa, director of a pediatric hospital in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, treats child prostitutes in her hospital. The doctor often asks parents why they sell their children. One father came in with his 12-year-old daughter. Dr. Hoa recalled, ''She was bleeding from her wounds and as torn as if she had given birth. (The father) told me: 'We've earned $300, so it's enough. She can stop.' Another parent, accompanying his 11-year-old daughter who was in terrible pain explained, 'First of all, we are very poor. And this is a good age to do it. She is still too young to get pregnant.' When Dr. Hoa asked about the child's future, the father said, 'She is very young now. She will grow up and she will forget it.' '' (*New York Times,* April 9, 1993)

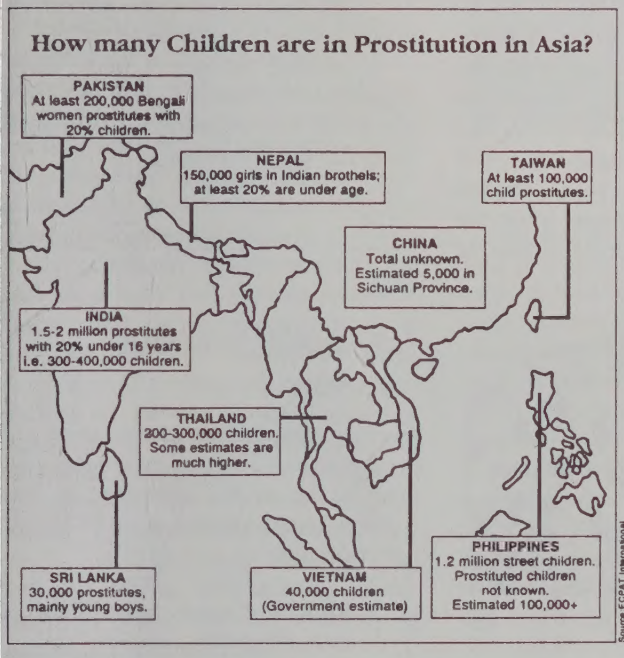
Sexual playground

The children do not forget. Social workers who assist child prostitutes say it is very difficult for a child who has suffered so much physical and psychological trauma to recover. But—as if this does not matter—the world goes on. At this moment sex ''tours'' are thriving in Asia. They are created for Westerners, and increasingly Asians, who feel free to go to another nation or culture and use it as a sexual ''playground'' without regard for the human wreckage left behind.

Participation in child prostitution is evidence of a crisis in basic values. This is illustrated by one Western sex industry participant who rationalized his actions as follows: ''It is different here, man. These people don't have the same hang-ups as the folks back home. They are really liberated. I mean, look at the way they are enjoying themselves. This is the way

Protecting the Flowers of Tomorrow

things should be everywhere. Most of these kids have had a hard time growing up in a poor country, so this gives them a little taste of the good life. The kids love it. It's good. Shares the money around a bit and helps out those who are in need." (*The Child and the Tourist,* p. 13)


How many Children are in Prostitution in Asia?
PAKISTAN
At least 200,000 Bengali women prostitutes with 20% children.
NEPAL
150,000 girls in Indian brothels; at least 20% are under age.
TAIWAN
At least 100,000 child prostitutes.
CHINA
Total unknown. Estimated 5,000 in Sichuan Province.
INDIA
1.5-2 million prostitutes with 20% under 16 years i.e. 300-400,000 children.
THAILAND
200-300,000 children. Some estimates are much higher.
PHILIPPINES
1.2 million street children. Prostituted children not known. Estimated 100,000+
SRI LANKA
30,000 prostitutes, mainly young boys.
VIETNAM
40,000 children (Government estimate)
Source ECPAT International

Child prostitution as a product of liberation! Exploitation of children as "the way things should be everywhere!" Children who "love" a life of exploitation! Money exchanged for sexual services as a means of sharing wealth! The world turned upside down! This is the reality of child prostitution in Asia.

At what cost?

What have we allowed to happen? What has been the cost of our indifference? Wassila Tamzali, director of women's rights for UNESCO, explains, "It's frightening. We are losing all boundaries. More and more children are being sacrificed to the sex industry. We must break down the wall of silence around this." (*New York Times,* April 9, 1993)

A three-year campaign in response to this crisis called End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) began in March 1991, initiated by three Christian bodies in Asia: the Christian Conference of Asia, an ecumenical partner of the UCBWM and the Division of Overseas Ministries (DOM) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); the Asia Catholic Bishop's Conference; and the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism. The campaign originally focused on enacting legal and policing methods to end the abuse of children in Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines and Taiwan. More than 300 agencies in 20 countries have since joined ECPAT. Recently the campaign was extended for another three years.

The actual number of children involved is difficult to determine because tourist agencies and industry participants do not readily admit exploiting children. ECPAT was the first agency to collect hard data on how many child prostitutes are working in Asia. Two major successes were achieved in Germany and Australia—where legislation was recently passed making citizens who exploit children in other countries legally accountable for their actions. Several other countries (including the U.S.) are considering similar legislation.

UCBWM/DOM involvement

A UCBWM Corporate Board resolution passed in 1993 "condemns and deplores the sexual exploitation of children in Asia and worldwide by tourists as a form of modern slavery and a crime against humanity."

UCBWM/DOM has supported the struggle to end child prostitution by working with partner churches and religious organizations throughout the world who are attempting to address the issue. UCBWM/DOM also works jointly with the national ECPAT office in New York. ECPAT-USA works to foster awareness among U.S. citizens and to advocate for U.S. legislation similar to that passed in Germany and Australia.

These are small but significant steps. However, much more remains to be done. The ECPAT campaign is fundamentally a campaign of hope symbolized by its emblem, the broken rose. ECPAT's Ron Grady explains, "The broken rosebud is the present reality—a reality of suffering and despair for children who have been caught in a vicious cycle from which there is no escape. But one of the laws of life is that from death comes life. Dead seed provides life for the new flowers. If the trade in children can be stopped, new flowers—new children—can spring up from the soil. All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today." (*The Child and the Tourist,* p. 134)

Evan Farrar, Program Asst.
East Asia/Pacific Office

Miriam Young, Program Asst.
Southern Asia Office

Suggested actions

Assistance is available for any of the following actions. For more information contact Young (212/870-2838) or Farrar (212/870-2829).

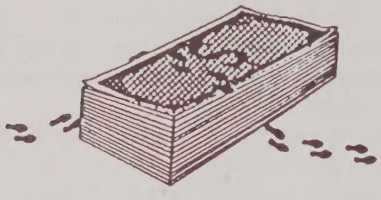
- At the time of this writing, several pieces of anti-child prostitution legislation are before Congress. Letters of support are needed. Please contact one of the above offices for the latest information.
- *Join* the Global Advocates Network of the UCBWM.
- Write a letter to the President and your Congressperson urging ratification of the *U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child* and urging responsible action by military personnel abroad.
- *Plan* an activity in your local church, Association or Conference to raise awareness. *Hold* a fundraiser for ECPAT. *Start* a study group. *Get* a youth group involved. *Design* a Sunday worship using long-stemmed roses as symbols of hope (you may want to use worship resources from the booklet, "Children Have the Right").

(Note: For a complete listing of resources used, see page 8.)

NEW RESOURCES: Social screens, South Africa, video on children

From the Global Education & Advocacy Office . . .

• "Placing money (a proximate source for security) over justice and faith in the ultimate source, the Divine, is idolatry and an affront to the God who calls us to seek God's realm first. By screening companies with practices which contradict our Christian beliefs, we take small steps of faith toward a more just world."



This quote from the foreword is the raison d'etre of the booklet, **"Walking in Integrity,"** which describes the social screens on investments of the United Church Board for World Ministries. It also lists companies excluded from investment by the screens, which include gambling, tobacco and alcohol products, and military contractors.

"Walking in Integrity" is available from the UCBWM's Global Education and Advocacy Office, 700 Prospect Ave., Sixth Floor, Cleveland, OH 44115, at $3 per copy.

• Designed for individual or group study, an educational packet called **"Building Democracy in South Africa"** by Erich Mathias and Susan Peacock provides factual information on the current situation in that country and elsewhere. The packet encourages people of faith to think about and be supportive of the complex democratization process in South Africa.

Packets are available from the Joint Ministry in Africa Office of the UCBWM and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at 475 Riverside Dr., 16th Floor, New York, NY 10115-0109, at $4 each.

From the Office on Global Education . . .

Child of the Universe is a 5-minute VHS video version of the long popular slide show by the same name from the Office on Global Education, a ministry of the Church World Service (CWS) and Witness Unit of the National Council of Churches of Christ/USA. New slides and effects possible only on video make the new version not only easier to use but more powerful.

A visual meditation on the beauty and variety of the human family, the video features children of five continents. Utilizing a song text from "Desiderata," the presentation is upbeat, moving and appropriate for all ages in worship, classroom and church school settings.

Order for $10 each from CWS, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515-0968. The video comes in both Spanish and English.

From the Africa Office . . .

It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times, a booklet designed to encourage discussion on economic issues that Americans encounter every day, is again available after a second printing. Order at $2 each, prepaid, from the Joint Ministry in Africa Office, 475 Riverside Dr., 16th Floor, New York, NY 10115-0109.

The booklet includes a study guide, suggestions for further reading and a contact list of other organizations involved in economic justice activities.

Resources (from Issue Perspective, pp. 6-7)

Facts Have Faces: Children For Sale, a brief study resource exploring the rapid growth of child prostitution into a multi-billion dollar international industry. From Church World Service and Witness Office of Global Education, 410/727-6106.

O'Grady, Ron. *The Child and the Tourist.* The story behind the escalation of child prostitution in Asia. From ECPAT/USA, 212/870-2427.

ECPAT Newsletter and ECPAT Bulletin. Published quarterly free of charge to organizations/individuals who support the campaign. From ECPAT, P.O. Box 178, Klong-chan, Bangkok 10240, Thailand.

Contours: Concern for Tourism. Quarterly newsletter of the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism (ECTWT). From ECTWT, P.O. Box 24, Chorakhebua, Bangkok, Thailand.

Children Have the Right, a UCC response to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, is available for $2 postpaid from the UCBWM Global Education & Advocacy Office, 700 Prospect Ave., 6th Floor, Cleveland, OH 44115.

300-plus years of service . . .

Nine missionaries whose careers total more than 300 years of service were given the emeriti distinction at the 184th Annual Meeting of the UCBWM in November.

- **Ruth W. Catton**, India, pediatrician; 35 years.
- **David C. and Padmasani J. Gallup**, India, ministers and teachers; 34 years.
- **Gerda S. and J. Manfred Laun**, India, girls hostel administrator, pharmacy and leprosy ward manager, anesthesiologist (Gerda), and surgeon and administrator (Manfred); 34 years (now continuing as volunteers).
- **Barbara K. Mensendiek**, Japan, trained as an occupational therapist, taught English to occupational therapy students; 30 years.
- **Lloyd G. Van Vactor**, the Philippines and UCBWM Associate General Secretary, overseas educator and various staff positions, most recently as One Great Hour of Sharing administrator; 39 years.
- **Melvin and Nancy Wittler**, Turkey, Near East Mission Secretary and ecumenical leader (Mel) and working with children, ecumenical activities, music and the Turkish arts community (Nancy); 37 years.

Zimbabweans to arrive in March

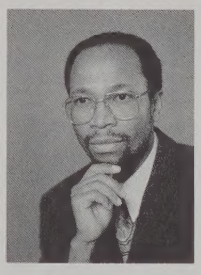
Missionary to join Cleveland staff

One hundred years after UCBWM predecessor missionaries first went to Zimbabwe, the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe is sending a missionary to the U.S.

Godwin Hlatshwayo, 31, and his wife Briggitte, will arrive in Cleveland in mid-March. Godwin has accepted a one-year position as Missionary-in-Residence with the UCBWM, and will be working with Terry Provance, Secretary for the World Ministries in the U.S. Program. Briggitte plans to attend graduate school.

"I welcome the chance to share my experiences with the African church," Godwin said. He has traveled extensively in Africa on behalf of both the World Council of Churches, and in his present position as director of the Ecumenical Resource and Training Centre (ERTC) of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches. In his new position he will work on "partnership support between (UCC) Conferences and (Disciples) regions, and strengthening the understanding of mutuality in partnership and mutuality in mission," Provance said.

An educator and communicator, Godwin grew up in the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe (UCCZ), and started his church career as a youth leader at the age of 16. He has served in various local and national positions, including chair of the Ecumenical Youth Council of Zimbabwe; consultant for the All Africa Conference of Churches; and as head of the UCCZ's Departments of Youth and Education, and Personnel Planning and Human Resources Development. As director of the ERTC, he has helped train more than 500 participants from an average of 30 African countries annually.



Godwin, Briggitte Hlatshwayo

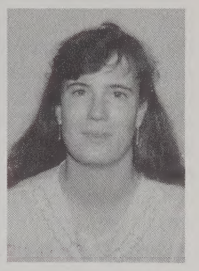
Godwin is also a member of the UCCZ's Synod Executive Committee. As such, he said, there are "always discussions concerning our relationship and partnership with the UCBWM. I feel if I have the opportunity to work in the U.S. I will learn and explore further the operation of this partnership."

He holds bachelor's degrees both general and with special honors, and an M.Ed. in industrial education and training. Briggitte has a bachelor's degree in sociology, diplomas in personnel management and marketing, and a certificate in computer studies.

Libbey fund established

Upon his retirement, in recognition of his leadership throughout the UCC and his dedication to a vision of global partnership in the service of God's mission, an endowment fund has been established in the name of the Rev. Scott Libbey. The action was taken by the UCBWM Board of Directors in November 1993 in honor of Libbey, who served as UCBWM executive vice president from 1985 to 1993.

English teacher dies in freak accident



An accident on Christmas Day has resulted in the untimely death of a young UCBWM-supported English teacher in China.

Lynn D. Walters, 27, of Hamden, CT, was the victim of a hot water heater which apparently malfunctioned and absorbed all the oxygen in a campus apartment while she was bathing.

Ching-fen Hsiao, UCBWM Secretary for the East Asia/Pacific region, called Lynn "a dedicated Christian," and shared some of her words when she first talked about going to China: " . . . it is hard to develop one's faith alone. . . . As part of a Christian community, I could learn as well as share."

"She was a very vivid demonstration of what the world mission of the church is all about. She really was a child of the world," said the Rev. John Abbott, interim pastor at her home church, Dunbar UCC, Hamden, CT. " . . . she taught us all a great deal about breaking down barriers so there'll be international understanding. She was scholarly, warm and spiritual."

Lynn went to China in August 1991 to teach English at Gannan Medical College in Ganzhou, Jiangxi Province. She liked her work so much she had asked for and received an extension beyond her two-year appointment. In recent months she had been teaching at Gannan Teachers' College, while continuing her ties with the medical college.

As a UCBWM associate, she was sponsored through the China Program of the National Council of Churches in the U.S.A. and the Amity Foundation.

A 1987 graduate of Smith College, Lynn joined the Peace Corps in 1988 and served in the Marshall Islands for two years. She worked one summer for the Missionary Society of Connecticut and for a short time as a fund-raiser for non-profit groups. She also spent a summer at Trinity College, Oxford, England.

The youngest of four children, she is survived by her parents, Charles and Barbara Walters, and three brothers. A memorial service was held Dec. 29 at Dunbar UCC.

Reality tour to Mexico offered

An eight-day "reality tour" to Mexico July 15-22 is being offered by the National Council of Churches of Christ/USA and other organizations. Using NAFTA as a lens through which other issues are examined, participants will explore economic and environmental justice, human rights, the situation of women and children in Mexico and the role of churches and ecumenical agencies. Spanish is not required. Application deadline is April 1. The tour will be led by staff from the Center for Global Education. For further information contact the Center at 731 21st Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55454, 612/330-1159.

CHRONICLE

(**Note:** Unless otherwise noted, all appointments are made jointly with the Disciples. For further information concerning overseas positions, contact the Mission Personnel Office, 222 S. Downey Ave., P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.)

APPOINTMENTS

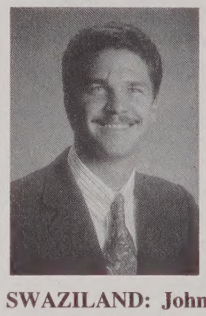
EGYPT: Monica E. Bauer, Associate, two years beginning Oct. 1, 1993, while she serves as a teacher at the Egyptian-American Academy in Cairo. A UCC minister, her membership is with the Pakachoag Church, Auburn, MA.

GHANA: Michael J. Allen, Regular, three years beginning Jan. 1, 1994, at the request of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana. He will serve as a public health officer at Wora Wora Hospital, Ho, Volta Region. Prior to this Allen had been serving the Disciples in a similar capacity in Zaire but had to leave there due to violence. He is a member of St. Andrews Catholic Church in Erie, PA.

LESOTHO: Jeannette F. Samter, Regular, two years beginning Jan. 1, 1994, while she serves as a math teacher in a rural secondary school at the request of the Evangelical Church in Lesotho. She first taught in Lesotho with the Peace Corps (1980-84), and continued to teach there as a contract teacher through 1992. She is a member of St. James Congregational Church, Hamburg, NY.

NEPAL: Andrew and Ellen Collins, Regular, four years beginning Dec. 1, 1993, at the request of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN). Andrew is serving as manager and audiovisual consultant to the development and communications program of the UMN. Ellen is working in public health (especially women's projects) and in social outreach activities. Joint Appointment with both the Disciples and the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Collinses are members of Triangle Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC.

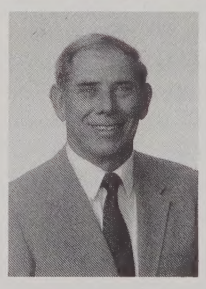
PHILIPPINES: Frank and Kathy Glenn, Volunteers, two years beginning April 1, 1994, at the request of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. The two will serve at Silliman University, Dumaguete City, with Frank teaching in the education and the philosophy and religion departments. Kathy will be assigned as a social worker, to assist in development of social work programs. They are members of St. John's UCC, Richmond, VA.



SWAZILAND: John and Tamara Rodenberg, Regular, three years beginning Jan. 1, 1994, at the request of the Christian Apostolic Holy Spirit Church in Zion of Swaziland. They are working in pastoral and lay education and community development. Disciples ministers, the Rodenbergs are members of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Bowling Green, KY.

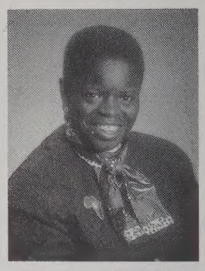
TAIWAN: James R. Rohrer, Associate, one year beginning Oct. 1, 1993, while he serves as visiting professor at the Presbyterian Bible College Lay Training Center at Nsinchu, under volunteer appointment by the Reformed Church in America. Rohrer is a member of the First Congregational Church, Dubuque, IA.

THAILAND: Allan and Joan Eubank, Regular, one year (Allan) and three years (Joan) beginning March 1, 1994, at the request of the Church of Christ in Thailand. Both are assigned to the Christian Communications Institute of Payap University in Chiang Mai, in



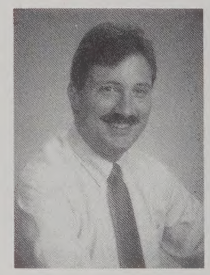
continuation of the work they have done there as Disciples ministers since 1958. Allan will continue his work in evangelism and communications, also serving as chaplain. Joan will continue her work in music, drama and Christian communications. They are members of the East Dallas Christian Church, Dallas, TX.

UGANDA: Tina M. James, Regular, two years beginning March 1, 1994, at the request of the Young Women's Christian Association of Kampala, with assignment as an AIDS educator in Ugandan villages in that area. She



is a member of the Ben Hill United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA.

VENEZUELA: Charles and Ruth Wallace, Regular, four years beginning March 1, 1994, at the request of the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela. The work they will be doing was seen as a need during their four



years of service in that area as Disciples ministers. The Wallaces will be co-administrators of Generation 2000, an alternative pastoral theological education program to claim young people for present and future leadership. They are members of Lee's Summit Christian Church, Lee's Summit, MO.

REAPPOINTMENTS

Colin and Karen Glenn, Regular, three years beginning Feb. 1, 1994, at the request of the Christian Commission for Development (CCD) in Honduras. A dentist, Colin will serve various health programs throughout the country. Karen will serve with the CCD's communications department and social service program. The Glenns had served in similar capacities in Nicaragua.

Phyllis M. Byrd, Regular, three years beginning Feb. 1, 1994, while she serves as consultant/administrative associate to the General Secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches in Nairobi.

David T. Grogan, Regular, Kafue, Zambia, three years beginning Jan. 1, 1994, while he serves as a math teacher at Kafue Secondary School.

HOME ASSIGNMENT

Phyllis M. Byrd, Kenya, three months beginning Nov. 1, 1993.

(continued on page 11)

Chronicle, continued . . .

Ruth B. Minter, Mozambique, terminal home assignment beginning Jan. 1, 1994.

RETIREMENT

David C. and Padmasani J. Gallup, India, as of Nov. 30, 1993.

LOSSES TO THE FAMILY

Naomi E. Blalock, who served 37 years in India, died Dec. 15, 1993, at the age of 82 in Crossville, TN. She worked with Church of North India colleagues in social service and educational activities. She was also involved with young women who toured villages to work with local women to promote family welfare. She worked both in Raipur and in Mahasamund. She was also active in the wider church, in literacy work and served on a number of church councils, and as president of the American Evangelical Mission from 1966-68.

She was educated at the Biblical Seminary, NYC, 1938-39; Eden Seminary, 1947; Scarritt College Rural Center, 1948; and Cornell University, 1954-55. A memorial service was held at Pleasant Hill, TN. Naomi is survived by two brothers—Hilton, of Metairie, LA, and Burg, of Marerro, LA.

Marion Burnham, who served from 1928 to 1962 as Mission Treasurer in India, died Aug. 11, 1993. She was 97. Miss Burnham also served as a secretary for the Division of Interpretation and Personnel from 1962 to 1965, and worked part time there from 1965 to 1971.

David J. Davis, 83, who served on the Corporate Board of the UCBWM from 1965 to 1971, died Sept. 20, 1993. He was also a former member of the Board of Directors. Davis made his home in Coral Gables, FL, after he retired in 1971 as pastor emeritus of Plymouth Congregational Church, Miami, FL.

Lila P. Edwards, 84, died July 25, 1991. She was a staff member for 10 years, serving as a secretary in the treasury division.

Margaret G. (Peggy) Hammaker, who served in India from 1925 to 1964, died Dec. 11, 1993, at Pilgrim Place, Claremont, CA. She was 92. Margaret was a faculty member at the Mary B. Harding Kindergarten Training School at Sholapur. As teacher and then principal, she helped train hundreds of kindergarten teachers. She was the first non-Indian to serve on the Bombay State Board for Pre-Primary Education. She was also a leader among the Christian women of Maharashtra, working toward the union of women's work of the five church councils of the Church of North India. Among other institutions, she studied at Columbia University, BS, 1932; and the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, 1939-40 and 1946-47.

Martha Fiedler Herrscher, 93, who with her late husband Walter served 35 years in Honduras, died Oct. 30, 1993, at Lee's Summit, MO. A daughter and son-in-law, Helen and Eugene Braun, are also missionaries, having served with the UCBWM since 1954 in Ecuador.

At the beginning of their work, the Herrschers were house parents to boys at the Bethel Boarding Home in San Pedro Sula, then they went to Chamelecon where Walter pastored a congregation. In 1934 they moved to Pinalejo to establish a mission station, revitalizing the village and establishing its first school. In addition to helping her husband in elementary school and in women's projects, Martha helped him teach pastors to play the organ and direct singing. She was intensely interested in Mayan culture and in the plants and animals of Honduras, on which she was considered an authority. After Walter's death in 1957 Martha assumed full responsibility as treasurer of the mission.

Survivors include another daughter Joanne Weil, Geneva, Switzerland, and a son Walter, of Green Bay, WI.

Ruth L. Hill, 76, who served 13 years in Turkey, died Nov. 11, 1993. She and her husband Douglas served several terms at the American Collegiate Institute in Izmir. Ruth spent her time in recreational programs for children, guidance and testing, editing the student newspaper and teaching conversational English. She is survived by her husband who resides in St. Paul, MN, a son and three daughters.

David M. Lennington died suddenly Aug. 20, 1993, at the age of 63. He served in Yendi, Northern Region, Ghana, West Africa, for six years. Lennington was both an agricultural missionary at the Eden Experimental Farm helping develop better methods of producing crops, and a district pastor. He was most recently pastor at Zion UCC, St. Joseph, MO, and is survived by his wife Anna, one daughter and three sons.

Beatrice Marsh, who served as a secretary in the treasury division for eight years, died May 3, 1993. She was 90.

John S. Marsh, retired missionary to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), died Nov. 28, 1993, in Bradford, VT, at the age of 95. He and his wife Marian, both Congregational ministers, were engaged in church and school work at Mt. Silinda and Chikore. They served a total of 29 years. John held a variety of positions, including superintendent of churches, chaplain, teacher in the training institute, mission secretary and treasurer, and also served as district commissioner of African Scouts from 1945-55, at which time the Marshes were forced to leave mission service for health reasons.

After their return to the U.S. John pastored churches in Wentworth, VT; West Rumney, NH; and Barton, VT, also serving for a time as chaplain at a tuberculosis sanitarium. He held degrees from Yale College, BA, 1922; Hartford Theological Seminary, BD, 1925; and Yale University, MA, 1926. He is survived by sons Dwight, Reston, VA, and William, of West Newbury, VT; and by a daughter Louise, also of West Newbury.

Theodore H. Van Dyck, former Executive Associate in charge of the St. Louis office of the UCBWM and Secretary for Program, Division of Service in St. Louis, died March 18, 1993, at the age of 81. He served for 16 years. He was also president of the West Coast Area of the Evangelical & Reformed Church for five years and pastored churches in Seattle, WA, and Biloxi, MS. While in Biloxi, he also served as minister and director of Back Bay Mission.

R. Doreen (Wright) Webb, 97, died Oct. 29, 1993, in Rockford, IL. She and her late husband Richard served 34 years as missionaries in Angola. The Webbs contributed to the Angola church during a critical period in its history, seeing membership grow to more than 12,000 and the church pass from an era of missionary control to one of self-management. A registered nurse, Doreen assisted in the dispensary and worked with women and girls throughout the Bailundo parish. The couple also worked in Dondi and Bunjei, where Doreen distinguished herself in the production of Christian literature in the Kuanyama language.

She received her nursing degree from the City Hospital Training School in Louisville, KY, and also studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is survived by three sons—Richard Jr., of Rockford, IL; Ryland, of Blacksburg, VA; and Stanley, Mayfield, KY.

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Everett C. Blake
Audrey Olson

Paul Bock
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Ellis

Marie Feierabend
Jean Eyrich Pennell

Martha F. Herrscher
Mr. & Mrs. Otto F. Artopoeus

John S. Marsh
Charles G. Chamberlain
Irma & Elizabeth Lewis
William V. Marsh
Mr. & Mrs. Max H. Webster

Beryl V. Masters
Virginia P. McKinley

Mrs. Hedwig Menzel
Helen M. Davis
Virginia P. McKinley
Emil W. Menzel
Mr. & Mrs. H. Telfer Mook
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Hirano *(continued from page 1)*

Connecticut Conference Minister and now heading the successor organization to the Board which sent missionaries to Hawaii, has brought him "full circle" in the mission field.

Hirano is a founder of the Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries of the UCC and a member of the UCC's Committee on Structure. He chairs the Implementation Committee of the Proposal for Action, a UCC Ministry with Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Andover Newton Theological School.

"We are living into a partnership with the Disciples of Christ. It is an exciting venture, and it bodes well for us."

He served parishes at Christ Church of Chicago; Nuuanu Congregational Church, Honolulu; Evergreen Baptist Church, Los Angeles; West Acton Baptist Church, West Acton, MA; and the First Baptist Church, Beverly, MA. He also served a short time with the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication.

He holds a BA from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC; a BD from Andover Newton Theological School, MA; and a D.Min. from the School of Theology at Claremont, CA.

Hirano and his wife Sandra are parents of two grown sons—Peter, of Lincolnshire, IL, and Scott, who served for one year with the Asian Rural Institute under appointment by the UCBWM.

Noted theologian to speak

Symposium set in Indianapolis

C.S. Song

Choan-Seng Song, professor of theology at the Pacific School of Religion, will be one of the featured speakers at "Gospel & Culture," an international symposium with speakers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, to be held April 7-10, 1994, at the Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis.

A native of Taiwan, Song is the author of several books—including *Tell Us Our Names* and *Theology from the Womb of Asia*.

The event is especially designed for persons from UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) seminaries. Goal of the symposium is to discover how cultural context provides keys and insights for a richer understanding of faith, spirituality, Biblical interpretation and witness.

Also speaking will be a number of racial and ethnic Americans. Through presentations, discussions, dialogue, worship and workshops, participants will affirm diversity and plurality within the unity of the faith.

UCC and Disciples church staff, clergy and church members are also welcome to participate. Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Further information is available from the UCBWM World Ministries in the U.S. Office, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115, 216/736-3210.

UCC disaster response through OGHS

OGHS receipts and special gifts have made possible the following disaster aid from October through December 1993. (Figures in parentheses are disbursed from contributions for specific needs; the others are from OGHS.)

- $1,000, Church of North India, for continued aid to earthquake victims.
- $1,000, Christa Seva Mandir Neighbourhood House, India, continued aid to earthquake victims.
- $7,000, Church World Service (CWS), Hurricane Flo in the Philippines.
- $2,000, Plainville, IL, Ministerial Association, aid to families in Bluff Hall UCC affected by Midwest floods.
- ($1,000), Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Guam, continued aid to victims of the typhoon.
- ($4,065), CWS, former Yugoslavia emergency appeal.
- $4,000, Southern California Conference UCC, victims of fires.
- $10,000, CWS, Rwanda-Burundi refugees.
- ($25,000), Illinois South Conference UCC for the totally devastated St. John UCC in Valmeyer, IL.
- $2,500, CWS, victims of violence in Colombia and Peru.
- $100,000, CWS, continued aid to victims of Hurricane Andrew.
- ($25,000), CWS, continued relief to victims of Midwest floods.